

**HIGHLAND REDEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
STUDY SESSION MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, February 25, 2009**

The Highland Redevelopment Commission (“RC”, “Commission”) met in Study Session on Wednesday, February 25, 2009, at 6:32 PM in the Upper Conference Room within the Municipal Building at 3333 Ridge Road, Highland, Indiana. The Study Session was called to order by Commissioner Adam Gawlikowski. The minutes were prepared by Cecile Petro, Redevelopment Director.

ROLL CALL: Commissioners present on silent roll call included Dominic Noce, Greg Kuzmar, Adam Gawlikowski, and Selena Rich. Also in attendance were School Town of Highland appointed Commissioner Luanne Jurczak, Economic Development Commissioner George VandeWerken, and Redevelopment Director Cecile Petro. Commissioner Tom Crowel was absent with notice.

General Substance of the Study Session

1. Introductions and swearing in of Commissioners

Kathleen Dowling, Deputy Clerk-Treasurer, swore in Commissioner Selena Rich. Commissioner Gawlikowski welcomed newly appointed Commissioner Selena Rich and introductions were made.

2. Baker and Daniel’s Presentation

The Director informed the Commission about the Baker and Daniel’s Presentation at the Radisson in Merrillville on March 3, 2009. The purpose of the meeting is to inform participants about the new Economic Stimulus Program. Commissioners Gawlikowski and Rich may attend the meeting. Commissioner Gawlikowski also provided information on a joint Chamber of Commerce meeting on April 28, 2009.

3. Neighborhood Stabilization Program

Director Petro informed the Commission that she may submit a full application for the state Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP). Discussion ensued. Commissioners directed Ms. Petro to consult with the Commission’s attorney and seek more information from the NSP before submittal.

4. Lake County Housing Task Force

Ms. Petro informed the Commission about her participation with the Lake County Housing Task Force. The next meeting of the Task Force will be at the Highland Municipal building on March 2, 2009 at 8:30 AM.

5. Indiana Economic Development Association (IEDA)

The Director provided information on her activities with the IEDA. Currently this association is focused on the passage of SB 448 which would eliminate personal property tax for data centers. The state Indiana has lost at least four data centers

to surrounding states because Indiana collects personal property tax. At the present time, SB 448 has passed the Senate and is now in the House.

6. Commercial Realtor Breakfast

Preparations for a Commercial Realtor Breakfast are underway. Ms. Petro is compiling a list of commercial realtors in the area and is looking for a place to hold the breakfast.

7. Design Standards

Ms. Petro informed the Commission that she will attend the next meeting of the Plan Commission on March 4, 2009 at 6:30 PM to answer any questions that the Plan Commission has on the proposed Architectural and Design Standards and Guidelines for the Redevelopment Area. Commissioners are invited to attend.

8. Economic Stimulus Grant Applications

Three different applications have been sent for projects within the town of Highland by department heads. A private firm, Congressman Visclosky, and the state of Indiana have all requested projects. The two projects submitted by the Redevelopment Commission include the placement of fiber on the full length of Indianapolis Boulevard and Kennedy Avenues and the relocation, demolition, and purchase of property for a new Public Works garage.

9. Update on business attraction and expansion in Highland

The Director and Commissioners discussed on-going and potential projects in the town. Commissioner Noce asked the Director to check on the EPA's letter for Bult Oil.

The Study Session was adjourned at 8:25 PM.